



**News from Congressman**

# **Tom Lantos**

**12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California  
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**FOR INFORMATION CALL:  
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## **LANTOS WINS COMMITMENT FROM POSTMASTER GENERAL TO KEEP SAN MATEO IT CENTER OPEN INDEFINITELY**

***Potter Removes Doubts About Future Plans,  
States "We Have No Intention of Closing Facility"***

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) today secured a verbal commitment from United States Postmaster General John Potter to keep the San Mateo Information Technology Center open indefinitely. At Congressman Lantos' request, Mr. Potter and his senior aides met with him today to clarify the U.S. Postal Service's announcement on March 13, 2003, that it reversed its earlier decision to target the facility for closure.

"I am happy to announce today that the Postmaster General made a personal commitment to me that he has 'no intention of closing' the San Mateo IT Center. This unambiguous commitment from the U.S. Postal Service's highest authority should remove any doubts about the facility's future. The hundreds of hard-working postal employees and their families working in San Mateo can now safely plan for their future without fear of being forced to relocate or losing their jobs," Congressman Lantos said.

In a letter to Congressman Lantos and to Postal Service employees in San Mateo dated last Thursday, the U.S. Postal Service said, "We have a continuing need for IT operations in San Mateo and have no plans to close the facility at this time. In fact, as you know, we have increased the level of development work performed in San Mateo over the past several months." Today's commitment from the Postmaster General made clear that he has no plans to close this facility at this time - or in the future.

Congressman Lantos requested a General Accounting Office study in September 2000 that prompted last week's decision, after the Postal Service first indicated the possibility of closing the San Mateo facility. At that time, the Congressman specifically asked the GAO to investigate the social costs of this downsizing on displaced workers and the "financial hardships on workers and their families who cannot relocate."

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